

that will stand strong for the great values that have made us unique.

I'm proud of the work of the FBI. I want to thank you all for your dedication. Stay at it. The Nation is counting on you. You're making a great, great contribution for the country.

May God bless you all and your families, and may God continue to bless the United States of America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:37 p.m. in a conference room at the Operations Center at the FBI headquarters building. In his remarks, he referred to Deputy Attorney General Larry D. Thompson.

Statement on House of Representatives Action on the Defense Authorization Bill

September 25, 2001

I am pleased that the House has taken the vital step to ensure our Nation's security by passing the Defense authorization bill. The legislation will improve the quality of life for the men and women of our Armed Forces by providing the most significant pay raise in recent memory. Equally important, the bill strengthens the United States' ability to meet the security challenges ahead. I look forward to signing a strong bill into law.

Memorandum on Measures Regarding Certain Liberians in the United States

September 25, 2001

Memorandum for the Attorney General

Subject: Measures Regarding Certain Liberians in the United States

Over the past 10 years, many Liberians were forced to flee their country due to civil war and widespread violence. From 1991 through 1999, we provided Liberians in the United States with Temporary Protected Status because of these difficulties. Although the civil war in Liberia ended in 1996 and conditions improved such that a further extension of Temporary Protected Status was no longer warranted, the political and economic situation continued to be fragile. On September

27, 1999, and September 28, 2000, based on compelling foreign policy reasons, President Clinton directed Attorney General Reno to defer enforced departure of certain Liberians in the United States for 1-year periods from September 29, 1999, and September 29, 2000.

There continues to be compelling foreign policy reasons not to deport these Liberians at this time. In particular, there is a significant risk that such a decision would cause the involuntary repatriation of many thousands of Liberian refugees in West Africa, causing instability in Liberia and the region.

Pursuant to my constitutional authority to conduct the foreign relations of the United States, I have determined that it is in the foreign policy interest of the United States to defer for 1 year the deportation of any Liberian national who is present in the United States as of September 29, 2001, except for the categories of individuals listed below.

Accordingly, I now direct you to take the necessary steps to implement for these Liberians:

1. deferral of enforced departure from the United States for 1 year from September 29, 2001; and
2. authorization for employment for 1 year from September 29, 2001.

This directive shall not apply to any Liberian national: (1) who is ineligible for Temporary Protected Status for the reasons provided in section 244(c)(2)(B) of the Immigration and Nationality Act; (2) whose removal you determine is in the interest of the United States; (3) whose presence or activities in the United States the Secretary of State has reasonable grounds to believe would have potentially serious adverse foreign policy consequences for the United States; (4) who voluntarily returned or returns to Liberia or his or her country of last habitual residence outside the United States; (5) who was deported, excluded, or removed prior to the date of this memorandum; or (6) who is subject to extradition.

These measures shall be taken as of the date of this memorandum.

George W. Bush

Memorandum on Delegation of Authority to Compensate Air Carriers for Losses Resulting from the Terrorist Attacks of September 11, 2001

September 25, 2001

Memorandum for the Secretary of Transportation

Subject: Delegation of Authority to Compensate Air Carriers for Losses Resulting from the Terrorist Attacks of September 11, 2001

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and laws of the United States of America, including section 101 of the Air Transportation Safety and System Stabilization Act (Public Law 107-42) (the "Act"), and section 301 of title 3, United States Code, I hereby delegate to the Secretary of Transportation the authority vested in the President under section 101 (a) (2) of the Act to compensate air carriers for the direct and incremental losses they incurred from the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, and any resulting ground stop order.

You are authorized and directed to publish this memorandum in the *Federal Register*.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 10:17 a.m., September 26, 2001]

NOTE: This memorandum was published in the *Federal Register* on September 27.

Letter to the Speaker of the House of Representatives on Emergency Funding for Air Carriers

September 25, 2001

Dear Mr. Speaker:

In accordance with provisions of Public Law 107-42, the Air Transportation Safety and System Stabilization Act, I am providing up to \$5 billion to the Department of Transportation's Compensation for Air Carriers account. These funds are urgently needed to enable the Nation's air carriers to meet the challenges resulting from the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001.

I designate the entire \$5 billion as an emergency requirement in accordance with section 252(e) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, as amended. In addition, I have delegated the authority vested under section 101(a)(2) of the Air Transportation Safety and System Stabilization Act to the Secretary of Transportation.

The funds contained in this designation are intended to stabilize the air transportation industry and compensate air carriers for direct losses resulting from the Secretary of Transportation's order to ground all aircraft immediately following the attacks, as well as any similar orders that may be issued in the future.

The details of this request are set forth in the enclosed letter from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget. I concur with his comments and observations.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

Remarks Prior to a Meeting With Sikh Community Leaders

September 26, 2001

It's my honor to welcome citizens from all across our country here to the Roosevelt Room and the White House to discuss our common commitment to make sure that every American is treated with respect and dignity during this period of—during any period, for that matter, of American history, but particularly during this time.

An American Sikh has been killed, unjustly so. These citizens bring their hearts with them, and I can assure them that our Government will do everything we can to not only bring those people to justice but also to treat every human life as dear and to respect the values that made our country so different and so unique. We're all Americans, bound together by common ideals and common values.

So I want to welcome you all here. We're honored that you're here in the White House, and I look forward to a good, frank discussion.

Thank you for coming.